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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/010,892	11/05/2001	Bradley W. Plattner	GRD0128.US	3059

7590 08/24/2004
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EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/010,892

Applicant(s)

PLATTNER ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-14, 16 and 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-14, 16-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

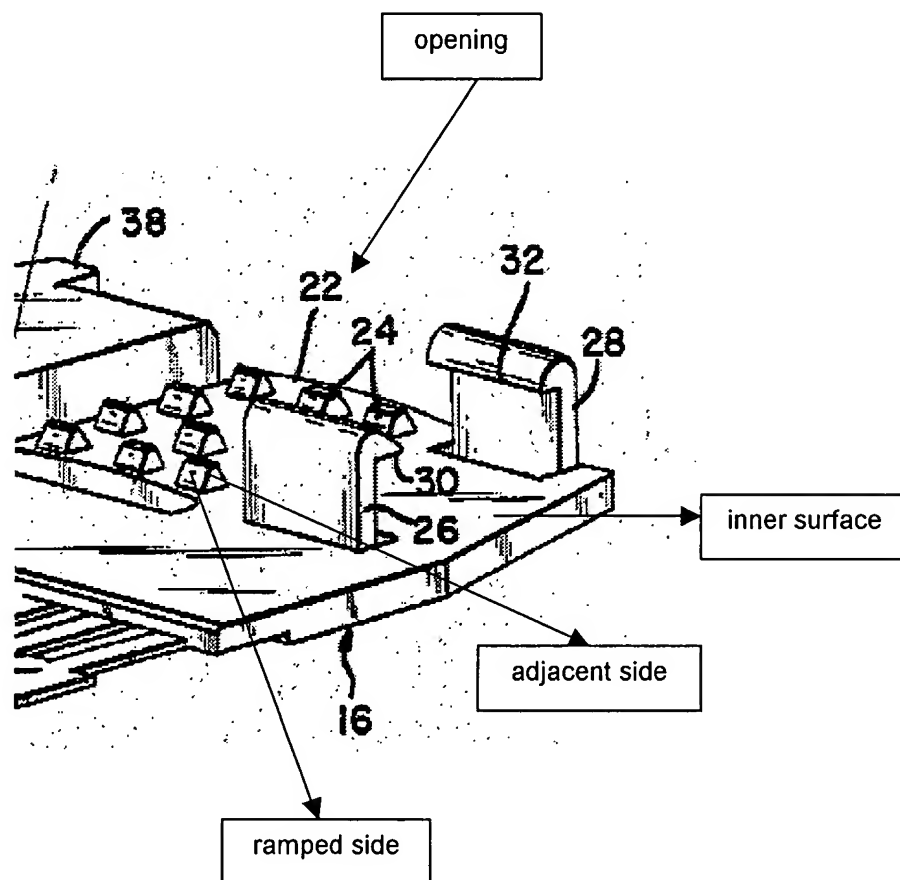
2. Claims 1-7, 9-14 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Douty et al. (4,367,005) in view of Bandyopadhyay (5,203,397) and Ignatowicz (4,280,746).

Regarding claims 1 and 9, Douty et al., figures 1 and 3, disclose a strain relief cover which read on an electrical connector for coupling a plurality of electrical conductors which enclosed in a sleeve, comprising:

- a plurality of electrical conductors (46);
- a sleeve (12) carries the plurality of electrical conductors (column 1, lines 31-33); and
- a connector (10 and 14, 16, a connector and a cover members, respectively) comprises a housing which including a first end has an opening (see a figure below) with an inner surface (see the figure below) to accommodate the sleeve and the plurality of electrical conductors. The inner surface having a plurality of pointed projections (24, a plurality of teeth), each of the pointed projections having a ramped side (see the figure below), which is extending farther from the inner surface in a direction away from the opening. The

Art Unit: 2839

pointed projections including two adjacent sides (the figure below) being adjacent to the ramped side that extending from the inner surface (the Examiner notes that the inner surface is the upper face of the cover (16)). The pointed projections separate at least a portion of the plurality of electrical conductors between the pointed projections.



Art Unit: 2839

Douty et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for a fiberglass sleeve; the point projections having a chisel point and the pointed projections engaging the fiberglass sleeve.

Bandyopadhyay discloses a die-casing assembly having a plurality of conductors (10) is surrounded by a fiberglass sleeve (20, column 5, lines 3-5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Douty et al.'s cable with the fiberglass sleeve, as taught by Bandyopadhyay, since fiberglass is a known and conventional material used for surrounding conductors. Douty et al. state that the shape of the teeth is of little consequence to the functionality of the invention (column 2, lines 35-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious for the chiseled surface of Douty et al. to end in a point as such a shape change would not affect the function of the device.

Ignatowicz, figures 2-5, discloses a connector (10) having a cable (50) and a tab (35) which read on the pointed projections engage the fiberglass sleeve (Ignatowicz, column 5, lines 43-46). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Douty et al. and Bandyopadhyay to have the tab and the cable as taught by Ignatowicz, in order to prevent the cable from pulling out of the connector and provide strain relief (Ignatowicz, column 5, lines 43-46).

Regarding claim 2, Douty et al., figure 3, disclose at least one electrical terminal (42) being constrained within the housing and electrically connected to at least one of the plurality of electrical conductors.

Art Unit: 2839

Regarding claims 3 and 10, Douty et al., figure 1, disclose each of the adjacent sides of the pointed projections forms an obtuse angle with the inner surface.

Regarding claims 4 and 11, Douty et al., figure 1, disclose each of the pointed projections having a front side which opposing with the ramped side and adjacent to two adjacent sides. The front side/other side being generally perpendicular to the inner surface (this front side compares to the inner surface which is the upper surface of the cover 16).

Regarding claims 5-6 and 12-13, Douty et al., figure 1, disclose the plurality of pointed projections are formed a plurality of rows on the inner surface.

Regarding claims 7 and 14, Douty et al., figure 2, disclose the housing includes at least two housing portions (14, 16). Each of the housing portions configured to connect with at least one other of the housing portions.

Regarding claims 16 and 17, the features in the method claims are identical to those in the apparatus claims. Therefore, the method of forming an electrical cable assembly alone is not a patentable feature.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 7/23/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

On pages 2-4, second paragraph, Applicant argues that " Douty et al., Bandyopadhyay, Ignatowicz and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest pointed projections engaging the

fiberglass sleeve and separating at least a portion of the plurality of electrical conductors between the pointed projections, as recited in claims 1, 9 and 16”.

The Examiner disagrees. Douty et al., Bandyopadhyay and Ignatowicz, in combination, disclose the limitation as mentioned above. Douty et al., figure 5, shows when compress the pointed projections (24), the pointed projections will push the conductors to the sides, thus separating at least a portion of the conductors between the pointed projections.

Conclusion


4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).
5. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

Art Unit: 2839

7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TL.
8/4/04.



T. Le